UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS 3-4-49 NO. 335

WHAT ABOUT FERTILIZERS? - This is a good time for farmers to check up on phosphate needs for the year _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Association advises. He states that it is not too early to make plans and arrangements for phosphate and other fertilizers.

Too often, he points out, "we have good intentions, but we don't take the necessary steps to follow through. Then when we get ready to put on the phosphate, we can't get the materials. To make sure, make arrangements well ahead of time."

He reminded _____ county farmers that assistance is provided under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program to help defray the cost of phosphate if it is applied in accordance with approved conservation practices.

The chairman emphasizes three major reasons for the Agricultural Conservation Program:

1, Conservation of soil and water resources is vital to national welfare and the security of the country. Without sustained production from our farms the health, prosperity, progress and security of the Nation would break down. And because it is a national responsibility, the government, representing the people of the Nation, cooperates with the farmers in helping to carry out needed conservation practices.

2, Providing this assistance to farmers has proven the most effective, economical and efficient way of getting the job done.

3, Through this program, methods of soil conservation and management can be put into use on many farms in a short time. The program is set up in every agricultural county in the country, is administered by farmer-committees elected by their neighbors and is in reach of all farmers.

- - - -

THERE'S PLENTY OF WATER TO CONSERVE - Water conservation will be a real job in the West this year. Reports to the U. S. Department of Agriculture say that the snow cover on the major watersheds is 200 percent of normal in the Columbia Basin; 150 percent of normal in the headwaters of the Missouri River; 175 percent of normal in the Great Basin and the Upper Colorado and normal on the Rio Grande, Arkansas, Salt, Gila, and in Southern California.

Farmers and ranchers who have put in water-conserving structures on their lands will get full use of them this year. Some of these water-conserving measures are spreader dams, contour furrows and stock water dams as well as a stand of grass that has been obtained by natural or artificial reseeding. All of these will lead more of the snow water into the ground. Some of the water of course will be drawn back up by plants. A large part of it will join the great body of ground water supplies. Those supplies have been badly depleted in most parts of the West the last few years.

Most of the water from the melting snow, however, will run off the land and accumulate in streams. Many of those streams have been dammed up and large reservoirs formed above the dams. On February 1, according to the snow survey, there was enough water in the accumulated snow to more than fill those reservoirs.

- - - -

FARMER-COMMITTEE INSTALLED IN PUERTO RICO - A 5-man "State" farmer-committee -- the first one outside of continental United States -- was installed in Puerto Rico on February 22. A typical roast-pig picnic was part of the celebration, which was attended by Washington staff members of the Production and Marketing Administration as representatives of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The committee to be known as the Caribbean Area PMA Committee, will headquarter in San Juan and will work with Area Director G. Laguardia on PMA programs for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Committees of farmers have been used previously in connection with PMA programs for the area, but in an advisory capacity. The new farmer-committee will have both administrative and advisory responsibilities of certain kinds with reference to such programs as the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Sugar Program, and the School Lunch Program.

- - - -

CONTOUR TO CONSERVE SOIL AND WATER- Explaining soil and water conservation practices which farmers of _____ county may carry out with assistance under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, _____, chairman of the county ACP Committee, said that contour farming will do much to save soil and water on sloping tilled land.

"Furrows on the level even though the land is rolling," was the simple way Mr._____ explained contouring. Contouring means carrying out tillage operations -- plowing, disking, harrowing, planting and cultivating -- around the hillsides instead of up and down the slope.

Practical application of contour farming usually calls for contouring and strip-cropping, sometimes terracing, he points out. A stripcropping system provides definite contour guide lines for the farming operations. Once the farm is set up with these contour guide lines -- either with terraces or contour strips -- the farming operations can be carried on year after year on the contour.

Many farmers find farming easier and more economical where the land is laid out on the contour. But the real purpose and value of contouring, the chairman explains, is in the topsoil saved and the moisture held in the ground for the growing of crops.

Contoured furrows form a small dam which prevents the water from flowing down the slope. The moisture soaks into the soil for future use of the crop and the topsoil is not washed away. Contour farming is one of the effective methods of checking sheet erosion.

The chairman states that assistance provided under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program can be used to help cover part of the extra cost of setting up a contour system on the farm. This assistance averages about half the out-of-pocket cost.

- - - -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO — WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS — 3-11-49 NO. 336

BRANNAN SEES 'BALANCE' AS PROSPERITY NEED - "For the long pull, we shall need prosperity based squarely upon balance," Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently said, "balance between farm prices and city prices, balance between wages and profits, balance, in short, between purchasing power and production."

Pointing out that the basis for a large part of the current U. S. prosperity has been "industry's efforts to fill a war-created chasm of postponed wants here at home and agriculture's endeavor at alleviate hunger abroad caused by war and drought," Secretary Brannan warned that these conditions will not prevail forever.

Among agriculture's current needs, the Secretary listed a long-range program which will provide abundance and security, a realistic program of farm price supports, further land development and better care of the acres now in production. Only by caring for our land "can we keep our agriculture permanently productive to meet whatever needs the future may bring."

"But at the same time, he said, "we must be sure that we know how to use our abundance. We must be sure that the wage earners are fully employed at good wages. We must endeavor to obtain and maintain an adequate foreign market for farm commodities. We must expand programs that will take up the slack of commodities in temporary surplus. And we must continue programs to make agriculture most efficient and to enable the rural population to share equally in the conveniences of the twentieth century...

"The feeling of the Department is that 1949 will produce less farm income, both gross and net, than 1948. At the same time, demand for most farm products should remain strong. And if the prospect of declining farm income spurs the Nation to action on a well-rounded long-range program -- a program laying the solid groundwork for an era of organized, sustained, and realistic abundance -- then 1949 can indeed be a good year for agriculture...

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

FOR RELEASE

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE - "For the long pull, we shall need prosperity based squarely upon balance," Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently said. "Balance between farm prices and city prices, balance between wages and farm prices, balance between production and consumption, balance between nations, in short, between production, power and purchasing."

Pointing out that the basis for a large part of the support U. S. prosperity has been "historically" efforts to fill a seemingly insatiable demand for goods at home and abroad, Brannan said that these conditions will not prevail forever.

Noting conditions a current month ago, the Secretary listed a long-range program which will provide abundance and security, a reality in terms of farm prices, support, further land development and better use of it, improved use in production, fully by making for our land "more as long as our agricultural resources permit, to meet whatever needs the future may bring."

"Not at the same time, of course, we must be sure that we keep low in our standards. We must be sure that the more remote are fully employed at good wages. We must guarantee to farmers and ranchers an adequate foreign market for farm commodities. We must expand programs that will lay up the stock of commodities in temporary surplus. And we must improve programs to make production more efficient and to enable the world population to share equally in the abundance of the American economy."

The Secretary of the Interior in that land will produce less than income, both years and work, time fully. At the same time, he said for most farm operations to be in terms. And in the program of the United States farm the farmer to notice on-a-well-managed farm, farmers, farmers having the soil, good work for an are of operations, economical, are realizing abundance -- when farm income indeed is a good year for agriculture.

"It seems to me, as I try to look ahead at the future of agriculture, that 1949 may be less important for what happens to farm income than for what happens to farm programs."

- - -

CONSERVATION AND FARM PRICES - What happens to soil and water conservation when farm prices go down?

In answering that question,_____, chairman of the _____county Agricultural Conservation Committee, said that the tendency is for each farmer to reduce the amount of money spent on conservation. As prices go down and the relationship between what the farmer sells and what he buys gets more out of balance, an increasing part of the shrinking income must go for fixed costs such as taxes, labor, seed, feed and other "running" expenses.

He points out that although the Agricultural Conservation Program provides assistance to farmers in carrying out conservation practices, this assistance is on a share-the-cost basis; the farmer has to put up his share of the cost. This assistance amounts to from 30 to 50 percent and when income is reduced farmers are unable to put up their share. As prices of farm products come down, the shrinkage in expenditures for conservation becomes more and more evident, the chairman states.

On the other hand the need for conservation is greater. As the market demand for cash crops such as wheat, cotton, corn, and other feed grains slackens -- as the bins, cribs and warehouses fill up -- there is increasing need to put the land taken out of these crops into conserving grasses and clovers. Phosphate and tillage practices are especially needed then to assure vigorous growth of soil-protecting crops.

Mr._____ urges farmers of_____county to keep up their efforts to protect their soil. Every effort should be made to keep up the farmland of _____county. The Agricultural Conservation Program provides the means

of sharing the cost and the responsibility, the chairman said, and farmer committeemen are ready to give farmers every possible assistance.

- - -

ACP SIGN-UP PROGRESSING - Already_____ farmers of_____county have indicated that they will participate in the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, according to_____, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee. A total of_____farmers participated in the 1948 ACP. This was _____percent of all farmers in the county.

Mr._____said that an increase in participation can be expected this year over last because there has been an increase in authorized funds and the limit of assistance to any one farmer has been increased from $500 to $750. Then, too, progress has been made in building up basic understanding about the program among farmers -- how it operates and why it is necessary for the farmer and for the country.

Farm plans already filled out by farmers who have signed up in the 1949 program show that (Name of practice) leads the (number) soil and water conservation practices approved for_____county farmers.

Mr._____urged farmers who have not yet signed up to consider the conservation needs of their farms on the basis of the most serious conservation problems, check these against the approved practices for the county and to concentrate on most needed practices. Those most urgently needed should be given first consideration in making plans for 1949.

Following is the complete list of practices from which farmers may make their selections:

(List practices approved for the county.)

- - -

FARM CROP PRICES BELOW PARITY - Prices farmers receive for most major crops are now well below parity, and many of them are below the support level directed by

legislation, A. D. Woofter, Acting Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, pointed out today.

"Many people still think that farmers are getting extremely high prices for their products," Mr. Woofter said. "In recent months, farm prices have been dropping rather consistently, and for many crops prices are now below the 90-percent-of-parity at which legislation directs Government price supports. 'Parity' is considered a fair relationship between prices farmers receive and those they have to pay for living and production costs.

"Prices for meat animals are still above parity, but with one or two exceptions, they are substantially below the market prices of a year ago."

Here are comparisons between parity or comparable prices and prices farmers received as of February 15, this year and last year, for some major crops and livestock:

Commodity	Av. Prices rec. by farmers Feb. 15, 1949	Parity prices: Feb. 15, 1949	Av. price as percentage of parity Feb. 15, 1949	Feb. 15, 1948
Wheat, per bu.	$ 1.94	$ 2.17	89	97
Corn, per bu.	1.12	1.57	71	121
Oats, per bu.	.689	.978	70	105
Barley, per bu.	1.04	1.52	68	112
Sorghum grain, per cwt.	2.07	2.96	70	92
Cotton, per lb.	.2914	.3038	96	100
Peanuts, per lb.	.103	.118	87	84
Potatoes, per bu.	1.72	1.80	96	105
Sweetpotatoes, per bu.	2.44	2.15	113	106
Beans, dry edible, per cwt.	7.85	8.26	95	134
Grapefruit, per box	.40	2.01	20	16
Oranges, per box	1.10	3.69	30	24
Lemons, per box	3.64	3.25	112	42
Hogs, per cwt.	19.60	17.80	110	120
Beef cattle, per cwt.	18.70	13.30	141	150
Lambs, per cwt.	21.50	14.40	149	142
Butterfat, per lb.	.641	.644	97	127
Milk, per cwt.	4.33	3.92	108	123
Chickens, live, per lb.	.295	.279	106	92
Eggs, per doz.	.418	.527	87	92

- - -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS 3-18-49
NO. 337

GRASS SEED KEY TO ABUNDANCE, SAYS McCORMACK - The need for nationwide understanding of what it takes to assure continued abundance of needed food is being stressed by Alvin V. McCormack at state meetings of Agricultural Conservation Program committeemen. Mr. McCormack is director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

He points out that continued abundance is possible only if the productivity of the Nation's land is maintained. Farmers can maintain the land only if farm prices make conservation work possible. Ample supplies of legume and grass seed are essential if the land is to be conserved.

As Mr. McCormack explains it, when farmers adjust their crop acreage to meet changed demands, it "leaves them free to put more land into grass." If farmers fail to adjust, the "over-production leads to lower prices and instead of reducing production a farmer is often forced to increase it in order to maintain his income. He tries to make up for the drop in price by selling more bushels or more bales. That's why the price support program, with its provisions to keep production in line with demand, is very important to conservation."

And in order to do the conservation job, he points out, "It's going to take a lot of legume and grass seed to do it. We've been short of these seeds for a long time. In fact, we've never had enough to really take care of the planting we should have made."

In great part, Mr. McCormack believes, the success of the entire agricultural effort in the next few years -- increased conservation made possible by price supports and certain crop adjustments -- rests upon the production of enough grass and legume seed. State and county Agricultural Conservation Associations, he states, are now making a survey of the probable needs for the next ten years and plans are being worked out to insure the needed production.

- - -

MORE LAND INTO CONSERVATION USES - Now that the war and postwar demands for the production of a number of farm products are easing and the bins of the Ever-Normal Granary are beginning to fill, it is time for the farmers of _____ county to begin to think about the use of land that may be taken out of possible excess crops.

If more wheat, cotton, potatoes, etc. are produced than the market will absorb at fair prices to farmers, it may become necessary -- probably will become necessary -- for farmers to shift the use of some of their land to other uses.

In stressing this point, Mr. _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, advises that in land use shifts, the emphasis should be on uses that will conserve and build the soil for future production. With population increasing and the amount of land limited, the proper use of this land becomes increasingly important.

The Agricultural Conservation Program, says the chairman, provides a way in which the farmers and the rest of the people can cooperate in carrying out soil and water conservation practices on land taken out of the production of excess crops. It is the democratic means for seeing that a vital job is done.

Mr. _____ pointed out that the Agricultural Conservation Program provides assistance for seeding grasses and legumes -- for pastures, protective cover, or green manure. It provides assistance for the application of phosphate, and other essentials which stimulate the growth of these conserving crops. He urges that farmers making plans to reduce acreages of crops that are approaching the excess stage see the county committee or the local community committee about conservation practices for land taken out of excess crops.

As the chairman explains, "Now is the time to build for a better future instead of wasting soil resources, water, labor, and operating expenses in the production of crops for which there is no ready market."

- - -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO — WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS — 3-25-49 NO. 338

ACP COMMITTEES TO ASSEMBLE DATA FOR MARKETING QUOTAS - ACP Committees are being called together in district meetings to receive instructions pertaining to the collection of cotton and wheat history on individual farms, according to W. Leslie Martin, Member of the State PMA Committee.

"Since acreage allotments and marketing quotas are established largely on the basis of previous production, it is highly important that we obtain as accurate records as possible," Mr. Martin said.

"Present supplies and prospective production of cotton and wheat in 1949 are such that marketing quotas on one or both of these commodities may be necessary for the 1950 crop," Mr. Martin stated.

(ACA Secretaries: Indicate the date and place of your meeting and list the names of those who will attend.)

- - -

1949 GRAIN SORGHUM SUPPORT PROGRAM SET - Prices of the 1949-crop of grain sorghums will be supported through loans and purchase agreements, (Name) _____, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, announced today. These methods of support will be available from harvest time through January 31, 1950.

The support price, on which loans and agreements will be based, will reflect to producers an average rate equal to 70 percent of the grain sorghums parity price as of April 15, 1949. The support on the 1948 crop of grain sorghums was $2.31 per 100 pounds, based on 77 percent of parity. In view of probable supplies this year in excess of needs in the producing area, the 1949 supports have been adjusted downward in order to permit grain sorghums to compete with other feed grain for both domestic and export use.

About 27 million bushels of 1948-crop grain sorghums were placed under loan through January 31; purchase agreements had been made on 2 million bushels.

According to Mr. (Name), the Department of Agriculture is now working on a plan whereby producers may make voluntary loan and purchase agreement deliveries of 1948-crop No. 2 Yellow Milo grain sorghums to the Commodity Credit Corporation beginning April 1. CCC will accept such deliveries to help meet export programs and clear storage facilities in early season preparation for the new crop. Farmers interested in making such deliveries should get in touch with the local county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

- - -

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT UNDER 1949 ACP - A number of pasture and range improvement practices are available to farmers of _____ county under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, according to _____, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Assistance is provided under the program for reseeding and for providing watering places for livestock. Mr. _____ explains that additional watering places usually reduce the concentraded grazing around limited watering holes and permits grazing over a wider area. This checks overgrazing and the resulting erosion.

Practices which result in improved grass or legume cover for the land merely take advantage of nature's own way of conserving the soil. Grass and legumes protect the soil from the bombardment of raindrops. The leaves, stems and roots check the runoff. More moisture soaks into the soil. The plant roots also hold the soil together. When the roots and stems die, they add humus to the soil, increasing the ability of the soil to absorb water.

Approved conservation practices under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program for _____ county include: (List practices approved for your county and add any other pertinent information.)

- - -

ACREAGE ADJUSTMENT --CONSERVATION - Isn't adjusting crop production to market demands as much a part of conservation as building terraces and farming on the contour? asks_____, chairman of the_____County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He points out that soil fertility used in the production of a farm commodity for which there is no market wastes that fertility just as much as though it had been washed or blown away. Adjusting the acreages in such crops to a production in line with market demand is using the soil for the good of the people who depend on the soil -- both the farmer and the consumer.

If the land taken out of production to get the desired balance is put into a conserving use both the farmer and consumer stand to gain. The farmer is improving his land for future production and the consumer is assured of reserves for future food production.

The chairman points out that to produce 100 bushels of corn 80 pounds of 20 per-cent nitrogen fertilizer, 458 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate, 251 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash, and 125 to 200 pounds of limestone are required. In addition small amounts of magnesium, iron, boron, zinc, copper and manganese are needed.

That means that in addition to the labor, use of machinery, moisture and seed, this much fertilizer is lost in every 100 bushels of corn produced in excess of what can be sold or used. The principle also holds for wheat and cotton and potatoes and other crops.

Therefore, the chairman contends that adjusting acreages of crops to fit market demands is as much a part of conservation as the physical conservation structures such as terraces and dams.

- - -